

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

June 16, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, James Little, Edwin Parker, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

ONE VACANCY: St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry S. Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Babin.

2. Prayer was offered.

3. Roll Call (see above).

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

5. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, second by Thompson to approve the May 2020 regular meeting minutes.

6. Financial Statement Report

- Hoover presented to the Board the General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements for the month of February 2020, for the record. March and April Financial Statements were approved at the May 2020 meeting. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by St. Pierre to approve the February 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

- Hoover presented to the Board the May 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Parker to approve the May 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

- Amendment #1 - Administrative Budget of 2019/2020. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Thompson to adopt Amendment #1 - Administrative Budget of 2019/2020, as presented.

7. Nominating Committee Report:

Election of Officers: Little read the Nominating Committee Report to the Board as follows:

President – Edwin R. Parker, Vice President – David Hoover, Finance Committee Chairman – Lionel L.

Bailey, Sr., Secretary – Toni B Guitrau. No nominations were made from the floor. The Board unanimously

approved a motion by Little, second by Thompson to close the floor to nominations. The Board

unanimously approved a motion of election by acclamation by St. Pierre second by Thibeau, on the

unopposed positions of Parker as President, Hoover as Vice President, Bailey as Finance Chairman, and

Executive Secretary Guitrau (employee) as Board Secretary.

8. Executive Director Report

- Rietschier presented to the Board and attending public a Comite River Diversion Canal Project update with visual boards. The presentation outlined the overview of the Project. He displayed the Project on a large-scale map showing phases marked by red dots from 1-11. No. 1 – Brooks Lake Closure is being studied by USACE. No. 2 is Hwy. 61/KCS Railroad Bridge by USACE. Utilities Relocations by DOTD. The USACE has the contract in place to build the railroad and highway bridges. The green dot shown on the map represents the Lilly Bayou Control Structure which is completed. No. 3 - Baton Rouge Bayou Structure by USACE and La. Hwy 964 Bridge by DOTD. They have done a lot of the engineering; some land acquisitions need to be done, and is being pursued very actively. No. 4 – Cypress Bayou Structure by USACE. Needs land acquisitions and is being pursued. Design in underway. No. 5 – La. Hwy. 19/GG RR Bridge by DOTD. Finalizing plans and ready to go into contract hopefully soon. No. 6 – Channel Clearing by USACE. Finalizing clearing from Hwy. 19 to McHugh Rd into White Bayou. No. 7 – McHugh Rd. Bridge by DOTD. No. 8 - Gas Pipeline (2) Relocation by DOTD. High pressure gas lines are being relocated because the Canal will go over the pipeline. No. 9 – Channel Clearing by USACE. No. 10 – White Bayou Structure by USACE. No. 11 – Plank Rd. Bridge by USACE. Ongoing and very close to finalizing.

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9. ARBC Legal Counsel:
 - Bankston stated HCR 62 passed with the amendment requested. The ARBC President will be able to appoint a representative for the commission itself, as opposed to the member being appointed by whoever is President of the Task Force at the time.
 - The Board agreed for Bankston to request construction signage that would include ARBC as a partner at construction sites.
 - The Board agreed for Bankston to request copies of CRDC Project construction contracts from USACE and DOTD on behalf of ARBC.
10. Old Business:
 - Tract 39-Hunting Lease Renewal – Marbury. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to extend the hunting lease, less the right-of-way acreage, as provided to Mr. Marbury via letter dated June 5, 2020.
11. New Business
 - Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approved the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire, as presented.
12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: July 21, 2020

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary